

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Missouri Department of Economic Development



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR 2007

The Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) is authorized to allocate up to \$6 million in tax credits per year for youth projects. Through the 2007 application process, YOP approved a total of 39 projects with a total allocation of \$5,992,336 in tax credits. A 2007 project list is enclosed.

YOP primarily partners with non-profits that work in their communities to develop and implement projects and services for at-risk youth. Non-profits team up with the Youth Opportunities Program to leverage private dollars to fund projects that meet this goal. These programs help youth overcome their current circumstances and realize their potential as productive citizens. Among other outcomes, youth stay in school, obtain high school diplomas, earn GEDs, participate in internships and employment experiences to learn job skills, learn conflict resolution techniques and abstain from drugs and alcohol. YOP is an incentive for non-profits to provide specialized programming for disadvantaged youth, who would otherwise not have such opportunities.

In 1998, the Youth Opportunities Program adopted the following seven program outcomes as a means to measure and verify the impact the program is having throughout the state.

- 1. Increase the number of at-risk youth with a high school diploma.**
- 2. Increase the number of at-risk youth that receive a GED.**
- 3. Increase the number of at-risk youth that remain in school and earn course credit(s) toward a diploma.**
- 4. Reduce the number of at-risk youth committing crimes and violent acts.**
- 5. Decrease the number of at-risk female teens that become pregnant.**
- 6. Increase the number of youth that have completed alcohol and drug awareness programs and abstain from alcohol and drug use.**
- 7. Increase the number of at-risk youth that have completed an employment skills education and development program.**

YOP projects that were closed from 2005-2007 have reported the following results under each of the program outcomes. The numbers are the totals to date for the projects that ended in each year. The outcome totals may vary from year to year depending on project time frame and the types of projects that are funded under the program. Some of the numbers may include duplicated youth if the youth participate in the program more than one year or if they achieve more than one outcome. Service projects must generally be completed within two years, while capital projects may have up to 3 years for completion.

The amount of redeemed tax credits to date will reflect the true cost to the State for the outcomes produced. Taxpayers have the tax year in which they made a contribution, plus 5 succeeding tax years to redeem their tax credits.

	2005	2006	2007
Credits Authorized To Date*	\$5,847,159	\$5,950,290	\$5,886,923
Credits Issued To Date*	\$4,143,812	\$3,320,245	\$1,087,204
Credits Redeemed To Date*	\$3,055,852	\$2,020,516	\$14,678
# of Jobs Retained and New	196	342	470
# Earning High School Diploma	171	62	6684
# Earning GED	62	20	39
# Earning School Credits/ Improving GPA	11,104	8,198	8246
# Not Committing Crimes &/or completing Violence Prevention Courses	2,270	14,270	7593
# Abstaining from Drug & Alcohol Abuse & completing Prevention Programs	638	7796	13,151
# Completing Life Skills Training/Mentoring	607	991	1227
# Learning Employment Skills/Job Placement	906	411	891
# Increasing Knowledge in Science and Math	323	90	287
# Achieving Other Outcomes	230	2754	2711

**Credits Authorized = Total Amount Authorized each calendar year minus recaptured, as of 12/31/2007.*

**Credits Issued = Total Credits issued as of 12/31/2007 for the projects authorized in each calendar year.*

**Credits Redeemed = Total Credits that have been redeemed by contributing taxpayers as of 12/31/2007 for contributions made to projects authorized in each year.*

In 2007, over \$5.9 million in tax credits were authorized under the Youth Opportunities Program. In addition to youth service projects, approved capital projects for calendar year 2007 included the construction of five new facilities and the renovation of seven facilities. In addition, current projects have raised over \$8.5 million in contributions, leveraging \$4.25 million in private dollars after subtracting the credits that were issued.

As shown by the data above, many projects are successfully helping youth become more productive adults using YOP tax credits as a tool. Following, are summaries of two 2007 YOP projects.

Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks, a Springfield, MO nonprofit organization, received approval for a 2007 YOP capital campaign for the construction of Isabel's House. The project began January 1, 2007 and has had great fundraising success. A dedication ceremony to open the facility was held in June 2007.



At Isabel's House, Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks provides a safe haven to children and families experiencing crisis, whether it be overwhelming parental stress; a parent at-risk of physically harming their child; domestic violence; lack of food, loss of utilities or housing; or illness and/or hospitalization.

The need for this type of facility stemmed from alarming child abuse and neglect rates in Greene County, in addition to Springfield's community report card and similar reports and summits exploring child welfare. To meet this need, the idea for the construction of Isabel's House, a 20 bed facility serving children aged birth to 12 years old, was born.

With YOP tax credits and the help of a number of community partners, Isabel's House is now open and provides a complete cycle of protection and prevention in a nurturing environment. Services are provided at no charge, 24 hour a day, 7 days a week. Families receive respite, empowerment, support, and training services.

Kingdom House of St. Louis has also been successful in utilizing YOP tax credits and making a difference in the lives of Missouri's at-risk youth.



With the aid of YOP tax credits, Kingdom House provides youth and teens with services and programs that promote positive growth and development. Youth programs include after school and summer tutoring, field trips, projects in the arts, and recreational and educational camps. Teen programs include life skills classes, a peer counseling program for teenagers, a TREND chapter, and education and career planning. Teen activities focus on developing self-awareness, self-esteem, and leadership skills in high-risk youth. Kingdom House also holds a summer youth employment program to place youth ages 16-21 into summer intern work positions with local businesses.

Kingdom House's identified performance goals include:

- 100 of 130 youth will complete an alcohol and drug awareness course and report abstinence from drugs and alcohol use.
- 55 youth will complete 15 hours of workshops to improve their work readiness skills and write career plans.
- 288 of 400 youth will be enrolled in school, attend regularly and receive passing marks to move to the next grade level.
- 433 out of 575 youth will improve their ability to work within a team setting or small group.

Both of these programs are contributing in a very real way to meet the needs of their communities and the at-risk youth living within their communities. Both are making positive, lasting differences in the lives of Missouri's children.

Youth Opportunities Program

2007 Project List

Organization Name	Authorized Amount	Total Credits Issued
A Million Stars	\$177,700.00	\$42,500.00
Audrain County 4-H Foundation	\$125,000.00	\$0.00
Beyond Housing, Inc.	\$186,212.00	\$73,822.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Eastern Missouri	\$232,360.00	\$89,310.00
Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Jasper & Newton Counties	\$32,424.00	\$0.00
Boone Hospital Foundation	\$250,000.00	\$9,668.00
Boys & Girls Club Of Springfield, Inc.	\$250,000.00	\$38,942.00
Boys & Girls Club Of The Ozarks	\$37,165.00	\$1,843.00
Boys Town Of Missouri, Inc.	\$250,000.00	\$94,749.00
Butler County Community Resource Council	\$3,600.00	\$880.00
Catch A Falling Star, Inc.	\$125,000.00	\$1,600.00
Catholic Comprehensive Services For Children	\$180,487.00	\$13,458.00
Coca-Center Of Creative Arts	\$249,260.00	\$64,018.00
Community Partnership Of The Ozarks, Inc.	\$82,402.00	\$18,275.00
Crider Center For Mental Health	\$15,000.00	\$13,948.00
Crisis Nursery Of The Ozarks, Inc.	\$250,000.00	\$131,301.00
Drumm Institute	\$245,000.00	\$28,176.00
Emmanuel Family & Child Development Center Emergency Shelter	\$250,000.00	\$0.00
Good Shepherd Children & Family Services	\$80,000.00	\$5,367.00
Hi-Tech Charities	\$115,000.00	\$0.00
K-Life Of Columbia, Mo	\$190,000.00	\$0.00
Kingdom House	\$200,008.00	\$90,264.00
Kirkwood School District Foundation	\$119,000.00	\$20,064.00
Land Learning Foundation	\$214,250.00	\$0.00
Leggett & Platt Machine Products	\$100,000.00	\$20,579.00
Lives Under Construction Boys Ranch Inc.	\$114,050.00	\$25,484.00
Lutheran Family & Children's Services Of MO	\$250,000.00	\$73,677.00
Metropolitan School For Individual Instruction, Inc.	\$128,046.00	\$13,537.00
Ozanam	\$125,284.00	\$8,237.00
Presbyterian Children's Service	\$125,000.00	\$27,257.00
Sherwood Forest Camp Inc	\$112,587.00	\$49,758.00
St. Joseph Institute For The Deaf	\$190,189.00	\$8,743.00
St. Mary's Special School For Exceptional Children	\$43,830.00	\$0.00
The Children's Home Society Of Missouri	\$25,182.00	\$14,500.00
The Youth And Family Center	\$80,000.00	\$12,851.00
Urbanfuture	\$213,740.00	\$3,000.00
Wyman Center, Inc.	\$187,297.00	\$15,532.00
Youth Empowerment Zone	\$131,850.00	\$10,000.00
Youth In Need, Inc.	\$200,000.00	\$65,864.00
Total	\$5,886,923.00	\$1,087,204.00

